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**MEDIA RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
DATE: September 11, 2014**

**CONTACT PERSON: KIT MIRACLE, DIRECTOR**

**SUBJECT: NITTY GRITTY DIRT BAND PERFORMS AT JASPER ARTS CENTER**

The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band will perform at the Jasper Arts Center on Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 p.m. Nearing their 5<sup>th</sup> Decade together, the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band is often cited as a catalyst for an entire movement in the Country Rock and American Roots Music. They continue to add to their legendary status.

This iconic and profoundly influential band continues to add to their legendary status with multi-platinum and gold records. Some of their top ten hits include, *Fishin' in the Dark* and *Mr. Bojangles*. Their groundbreaking *Will the Circle Be Unbroken* has been inducted into the U.S. Library of Congress as well as the Grammy Hall of Fame, as has their song *Mr. Bojangles*.

Nitty Gritty Dirt Band was founded in 1966 in Long Beach, California by singer-guitarist Jeff Hanna and singer-songwriter guitarist Bruce Kunkel. Others joined them including Jimmie Fadden and shortly later, John McEuen. They initially started as a jug band and adopted the burgeoning southern California folk rock musical style, playing in local clubs while wearing pinstripe suits and cowboy boots.

The band has had several incarnations over the decades and made real headway when they tied together two generations of musicians: long-haired boys from California and older veterans of the Middle American establishment. Working with icons, such as, Roy Acuff, Earl Scruggs, Mother Maybelle Carter, Doc Watson and others, they recorded *Will the Circle be Unbroken* in Nashville, Tennessee.

Although John McEuen left the band for a while, he rejoined it in 2001 when they celebrated their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Today's members are: Jeff Hanna, Jimmie Fadden, Bob Carpenter, and John McEuen. They have been nominated or won numerous Grammys and CMA awards including in 1989 CMA award for Album of the Year and a Grammy for Best Country Collaboration with Vocals, as well as Best Bluegrass Recording, and more. They are touring in support of their most recent album release *Speed of Life* and the remastered *Will the Circle be Unbroken*.

Jasper Community Arts is a department of the City of Jasper. Additional support is provided by Friends of the Arts, Inc., the Indiana Arts Commission, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Vanderburgh County Community Foundation. It is also a Kennedy Center Partner in Education and provides arts education programming to local schools.

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